

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

CLERK SUPREME COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE)	
ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY	j	
BOARD AND THE GRIEVANCE)	2017 ANNUAL REPORT
COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME	j	
COURT OF IOWA	j	

This consolidated annual report of the Attorney Disciplinary Board and the Grievance Commission is submitted as required by Iowa Court Rule 35.25 for the reporting period January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017.

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THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Members

Iowa Court Rule 34.6 establishes the Attorney Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Iowa. The Board consists of nine lawyers and three lay members. All Board members are appointed by the Supreme Court. Members are appointed for terms of three years, and no member who has served two full terms is eligible for reappointment.

Jane Rosien, Winterset, was appointed by the Court to serve as the Board's chairperson effective July 1, 2016, and was reappointed on July 18, 2017. Other attorney members serving during this reporting period include:

- Marti Nerenstone, Council Bluffs;
- John Gosma, Davenport;
- Lucas J. Richardson, Ames;
- Nicholas G. Pothitakis, Burlington;
- Stephanie L. Cox, Des Moines;
- Andrew Van Der Maaten, Decorah;
- Andrew Chappell, Iowa City;
- Michael J. Chozen, Spirit Lake;
- Karen J. Erger, Ely, and
- Mark C. Smith, Des Moines.

Lay members serving during this reporting period include

• Gerald A. Zavitz, Davenport;

- Ann Knutson, Sioux City;
- Tim McClimon, Dewitt; and
- Dr. Debbie Nanda McCartney, Des Moines.

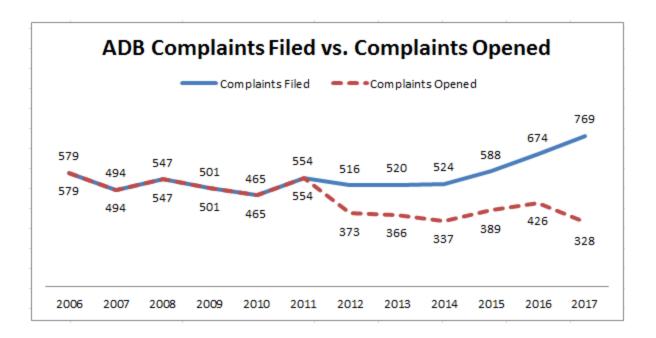
The terms of Mr. Gosma and Mr. Zavitz expired June 30, 2017. Mr. Chappell resigned from the Board in February, 2017, upon his appointment to the District Court. The Court appointed Lucas J. Richardson, Nicholas G. Pothitakis, and Tim McClimon as Board members by order filed July 18, 2017.

Intake

Board staff responded to approximately 677 inquiries from the public in 2017, in each instance either directing the inquiring party to the appropriate resource or providing the party with a complaint form and/or information about the function and role of the Board. As a point of comparison, in 2016 the Board staff responded to 430 separate inquiries from the public between April 15, 2016, and December 31, 2016. ¹

As can be seen on the following chart, at first glance it appears that 2017 had a record number of complaints filed against Iowa attorneys:

¹ The adoption of a new case and contact management system on April 15, 2016, allowed this data to be compiled for the first time in the Board's history. In addition to giving Board staff the ability to instantly determine the status of any matter and the disciplinary history of any attorney, the program provides an "electronic file cabinet" for all Board matters. Board administrative support staff have begun scanning old files as time and their other work priorities allow. As of December 31, 2017, over 15,000 Board documents (ranging from entire files to correspondence, evidence, and Court documents) have been electronically linked to appropriate contacts and disciplinary matters.



However, the increase to 769 complaints is due to a change in how complaints are being counted by the ADB's case and contact management software. While the number of investigations opened has decreased to 328, the number of potential complaints received by the Board appears to have skyrocketed to 769.

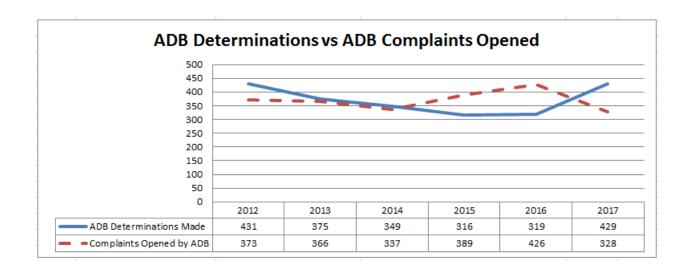
Iowa Court Rule 35.4 gives the assistant director for attorney discipline the discretion not to open an investigation when the information provided by the complainant, "if true, would not constitute misconduct or incapacity, or if the complaint is facially frivolous, stale, lacking in adequate factual detail, duplicative, or outside the board's jurisdiction, or does not otherwise reasonably warrant investigation." In 2017, the number of complaints declined under Rule 35.4 was 441 as compared to 248 such complaints in 2016. This apparent increase is a result of the way in which potential complaints are

processed in the electronic case management system.

Before April of 2016, all of the complaints sent in by a single complainant (be it two complaints or twelve) were likely to be counted as one complaint (especially if the potential complaints included only one complaint form or no complaint form at all, or all arrived at the Board on one day). Under the new system, each incoming complaint is counted separately. If the same complainant submits a complaint against the same lawyer once each month, 12 complaints will be counted. Similarly, if the complainant sends a single envelope containing 12 complaints against 12 different lawyers, 12 complaints will be counted. This will ultimately give a more realistic number of complaints that are received and require Board staff attention (either in the form of correspondence or the opening of a formal complaint) in any given year.

Board Determinations

The number of board determinations is the number of complaints that the Board itself considered in a calendar year, as compared to the number of complaints that were opened in a calendar year. Board determinations are made after a complaint has been opened, the attorney respondent has provided a written response to the allegations, and an initial investigation into the matter has been made by the staff investigators.



The Board made determinations in 429 complaint files during calendar year 2017. This was more than a hundred more determinations than had been made by the Board in 2016. Here is a breakdown of the board's disposition on each of the 429 determinations:

Board Dispositions	Number of Matters	Percentage
Dismissed	240	55.9%
Private Admonition	58	13.5%
Referred to Grievance Commission	53	12.4%
Closed Without Adjudication	36	8.4%
Public Reprimand	33	7.7%
Trusteeship	4	0.9%
Resist or Agree to Reinstatement	3	0.7%
Initiate Disability Suspension	1	0.2%
Initiate Reciprocal Discipline	1	0.2%
Grand Total	429	100.0%

During the previous reporting period (2016), the 319 determinations by the Board included 123 dismissals (38.6%); 53 private admonitions (16.6%); 46

public reprimands (14.4%); and 61 complaints referred to staff counsel for prosecution before the Grievance Commission (19.1%).

In addition to tracking dispositions, Board staff have begun tracking file closures. The number of file closures lags behind the number of Board dispositions because some dispositions (e. g., referrals for prosecution or public reprimands) require further action by Board counsel, the Grievance Commission, or the Supreme Court before the matter may be completely closed. The Board closed 397 matters in 2017 as compared to 234 matters closed in 2016. File closures included the following final dispositions:

File Closures – Final Dispositions		Number of Matters	Percentage
Dismissed		242	61.0%
Private Admonition		62	15.6%
Closed Without Adjudica	tion ²	42	10.6%
Public Reprimand		26	6.5%
	Disability Suspension	1	0.3%
	Suspended 1 Year Or More	2	0.5%
Suspensions (13 Board Files/3.3%)	Suspended 3 To 6 Months	5	1.3%
	Suspended 31 To 60 Days	4	1.0%
	Suspended 30 Days Or Fewer	1	0.3%
Disbarments	Disbarment on Consent	2	0.5%
(4 Board Files/1%)	Disbarment/Revocation	2	0.5%
Reinstatements	Reinstated	1	0.3%
(2 Board Files/ 0.5%)	Reinstatement Denied	1	0.3%
Deferral of Discipline		1	0.3%
Trusteeship		5	1.3%
Grand Total		397	100.0%

² Matters closed without adjudication included 21 investigative files closed upon the imposition of multiple disciplinary and administrative suspensions against one attorney, 8 files closed upon an attorney's consent to a disability suspension, 3 files closed upon the deaths of the respondent attorneys, and several files closed as duplicate matters or matters otherwise not warranting investigation.

A breakdown of the final dispositions based upon allegations raised in the complaint can be found in Table B.

As of April, 2016, the Board began tracking the areas of law that give rise to disciplinary complaints that are opened and investigated. The following are the areas of law from which the 397 Board file closures in 2017 originated:

Area of Law	Number of Matters	Percentage
Opened before April 2016	104	not included
Criminal	102	34.8%
Family Law	65	22.2%
Other	32	10.9%
Probate	30	10.2%
Personal Injury	17	5.8%
Civil	14	4.8%
Appellate	12	4.1%
Real Estate	4	1.4%
Consumer	4	1.4%
Employment	3	1.0%
Juvenile	3	1.0%
Contract Disputes	2	0.7%
Insurance	2	0.7%
Insurance Disputes	1	0.3%
Disability	1	0.3%
Immigration	1	0.3%
Grand Total	397	100.0%

Prisoners and/or criminal defendants were the most frequent complainants, submitting 94 of the 397 complaints that reached file closure in 2017. The Board tracks both prisoner and family law client complaints separately from complaints received from other types of clients. A graphical representation of final dispositions broken down by complaint source appears in Table A of the Appendix, as per the following statistical analysis:

Source of Complaint	Number of Matters	Percentage
Prisoner or criminal defendant	94	23.7%
Client (other than criminal or family law)	66	16.6%
Family law client	47	11.8%
Judge or other attorney	33	8.3%
Probate	31	7.8%
Other	23	5.8%
Adverse family law party	20	5.0%
Supreme Court Clerk (upon dismissal of appeal)	18	4.5%
Attorney or member of attorney's firm (self-		
report)	16	4.0%
Board-initiated complaint	15	3.8%
Adverse attorney	13	3.3%
Adverse party (other than family law)	12	3.0%
Client Security Commission	8	2.0%
Commission on Unauthorized Practice of Law	1	0.3%
Grand Total	397	100.0%

The ethical violation most often alleged was neglect or incompetence (in 204 of 397 matters, or 51% of the matters reaching final disposition). The second most frequent category of alleged misconduct was misrepresentation or fraud (in 127 file closures, 32% of the total). Other alleged misconduct appears in the table below.

Alleged Misconduct	Number of Allegations	Percentage
Neglect and competency	204	51.4%
Fraud, deceit, dishonesty, or misrepresentation	127	32.0%
Fees	45	11.3%
Attorney misconduct	39	9.8%
Conflict of interest	37	9.3%
Misappropriation or mishandling of money or property	36	9.1%
Pretrial or trial conduct	24	6.0%
Disrespect of Court	21	5.3%
Trust account irregularities	16	4.0%

Prosecutorial misconduct	15	3.8%
Confidentiality	9	2.3%
Communication with adverse party	9	2.3%
Aiding or engaging in unauthorized practice	8	2.0%
of law		
Criminal conviction	8	2.0%
Other	7	1.8%
Interference with disciplinary system	6	1.5%
Failure to report ethical violation	4	1.0%
Advertising and solicitation	2	0.5%
Threatening criminal prosecution	1	0.3%
Frivolous litigation	1	0.3%
Grand Total	619 allegations in 397 matters	

In 2017, 101 different attorneys were found to have violated our governing ethics rules in 104 disciplinary matters. The pattern of actual violations differs significantly from the pattern of alleged violations. The most commonly found violations were of Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct 32:8.4 (Misconduct, 38.5%), 32:1.3 (Diligence, 34.6%), 32:1.4 (Communication, 25%), 32:3.2 (Expediting litigation, 17.3%), and 32:3.4 (Fairness to opposing party and counsel, 16.3%).

Violations Found – 2017 Closed Matters	Number of Board Matters	Percentage
Rule 32:1.1 Competence	4	3.8%
Rule 32:1.15 Safekeeping property	11	10.6%
Rule 32:1.16 Declining or terminating representation	4	3.8%
Rule 32:1.2 Scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer	3	2.9%
Rule 32:1.3 Diligence	36	34.6%
Rule 32:1.4 Communication	26	25.0%
Rule 32:1.5 Fees	9	8.7%
Rule 32:1.6 Confidentiality of information	2	1.9%
Rule 32:1.7 Conflict of interest: current clients	3	2.9%

Rule 32:1.8 Conflict of interest: current clients: specific rules	5	4.8%
Rule 32:3.1 Meritorious claims and contentions	2	1.9%
Rule 32:3.2 Expediting litigation	18	17.3%
Rule 32:3.3 Candor toward the tribunal	5	4.8%
Rule 32:3.4 Fairness to opposing party and counsel	17	16.3%
Rule 32:3.6 Trial publicity	3	2.9%
Rule 32:4.1 Truthfulness in statements to others	5	4.8%
Rule 32:4.2 Communication with person represented by counsel	3	2.9%
Rule 32:4.3 Dealing with unrepresented person	1	1.0%
Rule 32:4.4 Respect for rights of third persons	1	1.0%
Rule 32:5.3 Responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistance	5	4.8%
Rule 32:5.4 Professional independence of a lawyer	1	1.0%
Rule 32:5.5 Unauthorized practice of law; multijurisdictional practice of law	5	4.8%
Rule 32:7.3 Solicitation of clients	1	1.0%
Rule 32:8.1 Bar admission and disciplinary matters	7	6.7%
Rule 32:8.2 Judicial and legal officials	1	1.0%
Rule 32:8.4 Misconduct	40	38.5%
Rule 45.1 Requirement for client trust account	1	1.0%
Rule 45.2 Action required upon receiving funds	9	8.7%
Rule 45.4 Pooled interest-bearing trust account	1	1.0%
Rule 45.7 Advance fee and expense payments	2	1.9%
Grand Total	231 determinations in 104 matters	

There were 429 Board matters pending, under investigation, awaiting prosecution, or being processed at the Board, Grievance Commission or Supreme Court levels as of December 31, 2017. This compares with 481 Board matters pending and under investigation at the end of 2016.

Probate Delinquencies

The Board received certifications from clerks of the district court of 241 lawyers' failures to cure probate delinquencies during 2017. For each such certification, a formal "notice to cure" was generated and mailed to the attorney. The attorney was notified that failure to certify to the Board within 30 days that the matter was no longer delinquent would result in the opening of a formal disciplinary investigation. 23 such probate delinquency matters (involving 15 attorneys) were converted to Board matters upon the attorneys' failures to cure the delinquencies. This procedure allows the Board to identify problems more rapidly than in the past and gives the Board the opportunity to consolidate matters involving the same attorney for Board consideration.

Grievance Commission Filings

During calendar year 2017, the Board filed 15 new Grievance Commission filings involving 15 respondent attorneys and 32 underlying Board matters. As of December 31, 2017, 14 prosecutions (involving 39 underlying Board matters) remained pending before the Grievance Commission or the Supreme Court. During prior calendar years, the Board made Grievance Commission filings against attorneys as follows:

Year	New Case Filings	Number of Respondent Attorneys
2016	11	11
2015	15	15

2014	20	20
2013	18	18
2012	26	27
2011	27	27

In 2017, 21 cases referred for prosecution (consisting of 38 underlying Board investigative matters) reached final disposition, either via orders of the Court or through alternate resolutions negotiated by Board counsel. At the end of 2017, there were 36 cases (involving 36 attorneys and 66 underlying Board investigative matters) assigned for prosecution before the Grievance Commission that had not yet been filed with the Grievance Commission. This compares with 30 cases (involving 30 attorneys) unfiled at the end of 2016, 36 cases (involving 36 attorneys) unfiled at the end of 2015, 21 unfiled cases at the end of 2014, 13 unfiled cases at the end of 2013, 12 unfiled Grievance Commission cases at the end of 2012, and 20 unfiled Grievance Commission cases at the end of 2011.

Trusteeships

Senior ethics counsel Wendell J. Harms opened and managed 9 new trusteeships (for the practices of dead, disabled, disciplined, or "disappeared" attorneys) in 2017. He also facilitated the closure of 6 trusteeships. As of December 31, 2017, 11 trusteeships remained open and under the supervision of the Board.

THE GRIEVANCE COMMISSION

Members

Iowa Court Rule 34.1 establishes the Grievance Commission of the Supreme Court of Iowa (the Commission). Prior to August 24, 2012, the rule provided for a commission consisting of fifteen lawyers from judicial election district 5C, ten lawyers from judicial election district 5A, five lawyers from each other judicial election district, and not less than five but not more than twenty-eight lay persons. Effective August 24, 2012, the rule was amended to provide for a commission consisting of twenty-five lawyers from judicial election district 5C, fifteen lawyers from judicial election district 5A, ten lawyers from judicial election district six, and five lawyers from each other judicial election district, and not less than five nor more than thirty-five lay persons. All commission members are appointed by the Supreme Court. Members are appointed for terms of three years, and no member who has served two full terms is eligible for reappointment.

Those members of the Commission who have served during the reporting period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 are listed at Table C to this report. Attorney Amy Stowe Beattie served as chairperson until the conclusion of his second allowable term of appointment on June 30, 2017. Attorney Scott G. Buchanan was appointed by the Court to serve as chairperson effective July 1, 2017.

Case Processing

Fifteen cases filed with the Commission were pending final disposition before the Commission or the Supreme Court as of December 31, 2016. During calendar year 2017 an additional fifteen cases were filed with the Commission by the Attorney Disciplinary Board. During the reporting period, three cases were voluntarily dismissed without prejudice by the Attorney Disciplinary Board. The Commission itself made final disposition of no cases by dismissal⁴ or private admonition. Final disposition of fifteen cases resulted by stipulated or agreed discipline or by decisions of the Supreme Court. As of December 31, 2017, a total of thirteen cases filed with the Commission remained pending before the Commission or the Supreme Court without final disposition. A summary report of case status for the reporting year is included with this report as Table D. Graphical data regarding ethics complaint and grievance case filings and dispositions is provided at Table E.

Table F shows a summary of the manner of disposition of the fifteen cases reaching final disposition during the reporting period. One case resulted in revocation of license as a result of court opinion. There were two consent disbarments during 2017. Ten cases resulted in suspensions of varying lengths. No cases resulted in written reprimands by court opinion. No cases resulted in the issuance of a private admonition as a result of court opinion. No cases were dismissed by the Commission. The Commission's synopsis of

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⁴ Only true dismissals are characterized as such. Cases ultimately dismissed following agreed or stipulated discipline have been categorized based on the discipline imposed.

charges and report of disposition regarding those cases reaching final disposition is included with this report as Table G.

Disability and Discipline Orders Based on Other Authority

Authority for disability or disciplinary orders exists in portions of the Iowa Court Rules outside the scope of the Grievance Commission function. They include matters such as suspensions for failure to comply with the mandatory reporting requirements, failure to comply with specific court obligations or temporary suspensions for failing to respond to inquiries by the attorney disciplinary board or client security commission. This information is useful, however, in deriving the entire picture of the attorney disciplinary process.

During calendar year 2017, the following orders were entered under these other provisions of the Iowa Court Rules:

Suspensions based on failure to comply with continuing legal education or client security reporting and fee payment duties under chapters 39 through 42 of the Iowa Court Rules	15
Public reprimands issued directly by the Attorney Disciplinary Board, with court approval, under Iowa Court Rule 35.12	18
Temporary suspensions issued under Iowa Court Rule 35.7 based on failure to respond to notice of complaints received by the Attorney Disciplinary Board	8
Suspensions issued due to lawyer disability as provided in Iowa Court Rule 34.17	2

Suspensions based on abandonment of practice as provided in Iowa Court Rule 34.18	1
Reprimands, suspensions, or revocations issued based on the reciprocal discipline provisions of Iowa Court Rule 34.19	0
Suspensions or revocations issued based on receipt of a certified copy of judgment in a criminal prosecution under the provisions of Iowa Court Rule 34.15	3
Suspensions based on failure to comply with auditing or claim investigation requirements of the Client Security Commission, based on the authority of Iowa Court Rule 39.12	1
Suspensions based on failure to honor child support, college student loan obligations, or tax based on the provisions of Iowa Court Rules 34.20, 34.21, or 34.22	0
Suspensions based on a substantial threat of serious harm to the public, based on Iowa Court Rule 34.14	0

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY ENTITIES

Chapter 39 of the Iowa Court Rules⁵ was amended by order dated December 15, 1994, effective January 3, 1995. The amendment provided that in addition to reimbursing losses caused to the public by the dishonest conduct of members of the bar of Iowa, the Client Security Trust Fund would support administration of the lawyer disciplinary system and other programs that impact the disciplinary system, including the Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program.

Effective in 1995, as a condition to continuing membership in the bar, every bar member, unless exempt, is required to pay to the Client Security Commission an annual fee as determined by the Court to finance the disciplinary

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 $^{^{5}}$ Then known as Iowa Court Rule 121.

system. The 2017 annual fee was \$175.00. During the fiscal year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, annual fees and late penalties received to finance the disciplinary system totaled \$1,629,775. Total disciplinary funding received during fiscal year 2016-2017 was \$1,641,314, which included the annual fees, late filing fees, investment income, and reimbursement of disciplinary costs paid.

By court order, the Client Security Commission was directed to pay a total of \$1,393,224.88 for the fiscal year 2016-2017 operating budget of the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Disciplinary Board. The Board actually made cash disbursements totaling \$1,401,401 during the year. During fiscal year 2016-2017, the Commission also paid operating expenditures for the Grievance Commission totaling \$235,491, operating expenses of the Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law totaling \$52,536, and a subsidy for the Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program totaling \$97,800. Total expenditures made for the disciplinary system during fiscal year 2016-2017 were \$1,787,228.

The annual fee to be paid by each attorney to support the attorney disciplinary system for calendar year 2018 remains has been increased to \$200. The annual fee will be used to pay operating expenditures for the Attorney Disciplinary Board, Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program, Grievance Commission, and the Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law.

The Client Security Commission has established separate bookkeeping records and accounts for funds received to finance the disciplinary system. A Disciplinary Fund checking account has been established for disciplinary operations. The required annual fees received from attorneys to finance the

disciplinary system are deposited initially in the Investment Account of the Client

Security Commission, and then transferred to the Disciplinary Fund checking

account. When rates of return warrant, funds deposited to the Disciplinary Fund

checking account are diverted to interest-bearing certificates of deposit insured

by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or a savings account, to the extent

not necessary to support current operations of the Grievance Commission or the

other entities supported by the disciplinary fee.

The Grievance Commission and seven other boards, commissions, or

functions administered by the main office of the Office of Professional Regulation

share staff, files, and equipment to minimize operating expenses. The accounting

and budget years for the boards and commissions are standardized on the same

fiscal year as state government generally. On June 28, 2017, the Court approved

operating budgets attached at Annex A for the Grievance Commission, the

Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, and for the Attorney

Disciplinary Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Continued cooperation between all of the boards and commissions administered

by the Office of Professional Regulation makes it possible to operate within these

budgets.

Dated: February 1, 2018

THE IOWA SUPREME COURT ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

By Jane Rosien, Chair

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GRIEVANCE COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

Scott G. Buchanan, Chair

- Annex A Approved Operating Budgets for Fiscal Year 2017-2018
- Table A Source of Complaint and Board Determinations
- Table B Type of Complaint and Board Determinations
- Table C Grievance Commission Members During 2017
- Table D Grievance Case Status Summary Report
- Table E Graphical Information Regarding Ethics and Grievance Cases
- Table F Grievance Case Disposition Summary
- Table G Synopsis and Report Regarding Grievance Cases Reaching Final Disposition During Calendar Year 2017

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

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JUN	28	2017

FOR THE BOARDS AND)		CLERK SUPREME COURT
COMMISSIONS OF THE	j	ORDER	
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL)		
REGULATION)		

On June 28, 2017, the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation filed with this Court the proposed fiscal year 2017-2018 budgets for those boards and commissions subject to the provisions of Iowa Court Rule 49.2.

Pursuant to Iowa Court Rule 49.2, the fiscal year 2017-2018 budgets for the following named boards and commissions of the Office of Professional Regulation are approved as proposed:

Attorney Disciplinary Board

Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters

Board of Law Examiners

Client Security Commission

Commission on Continuing Legal Education

Office of Professional Regulation, Court Interpreter Function

Grievance Commission

Lawyer Trust Account Commission

Commission on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

A copy of each approved budget is attached to this order.

These boards and commissions are authorized and directed to expend monies and other receipts collected under the provisions of the

Iowa Court Rules in execution of the approved budgets, in each case in an amount up to but not exceeding the applicable budget total as approved.

The Court is advised that as of June 30, 2017, the Attorney Disciplinary Board (the Board) will have a remaining unobligated balance in its bank operating account, representing that portion of the fiscal year 2016-2017 budget authorization it will not expend during the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The Board is authorized and directed to expend this remaining unobligated bank operating account balance, as verified by independent audit, against the Board's authorized budget for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The Client Security Commission is authorized and directed to pay to the Board during the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, a sum equal to the Board's total approved budget for that period, reduced by the Board's unobligated bank operating account balance as of June 30, 2017, as verified by independent audit. Such payment shall be divided into equal semimonthly installments, which the Client Security Commission shall be authorized to adjust to reflect the remaining operating account balance already available to the Board.

Dated this 28 day of June, 2017.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice

Copies to:
Members of the Court
Court of Appeals
Members of Each Board or Commission
State Court Administrator
Director, Office of Professional Regulation
Iowa State Bar Association

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY BOARD

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salary & Employee Expense	
Salaries	\$ 934,978.45
Clerical overtime	\$ -
Deferred Compensation	\$ 9,000.00
Employee Insurance	\$ 212,115.30
Employer's Unemployment	\$ 363.60
FICA	\$ 71,525.85
IPERS	\$ 83,493.58
Vac/SL Payout	\$ -
Total Payroll Expenses	\$ 1,311,476.78
Non-Payroll Expense	
Appellate Brief Printing	\$ -
Audit Expense	\$ 2,450.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ 600.00
Board Meeting Expense	\$ 4,700.00
Case Management Software	\$ 7,500.00
Computer Services & Expense	\$ 4,600.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 4,000.00
Employer Insurance	\$ 4,800.00
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 6,500.00
Investigative & Hrg Expense	\$ 10,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 500.00
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
Contract Lawyers	\$ 50,000.00
Payroll Processing	\$ 2,250.00
Postage	\$ 6,800.00
Repairs	\$ 500.00
Rent	\$ 51,600.00
Telephone	\$ 5,600.00
Travel	\$ 6,000.00
Temporary Clerical	\$ _
Total Non-Payroll Expense	\$ 171,400.00
Total Expense	\$ 1,482,876.78

GRIEVANCE COMMISSION

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENSES

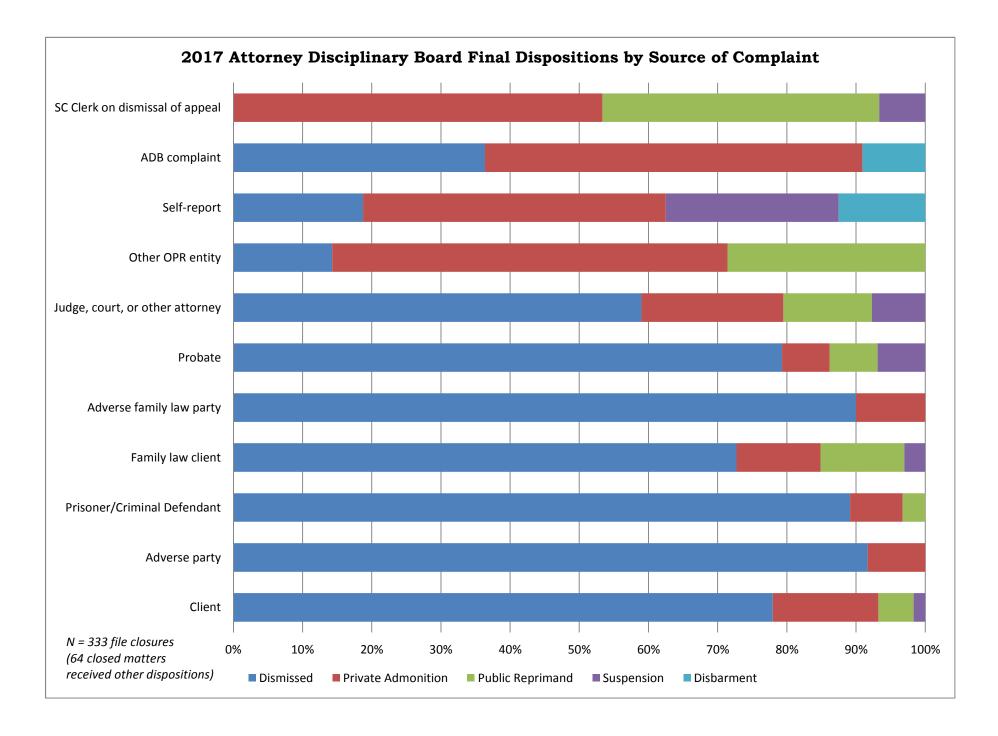
Salary and Salary Expenses Director Salary Assistant Director Clerical Salary Vacation/Sick Leave Payout Part-Time Call Center Support FICA IPERS Employee Insurance Deferred Compensation	\$22,613.29 \$55,726.72 \$41,453.36 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$9,164.19 \$10,697.55 \$22,304.24 \$1,215.00
Auditing Rent Copier Lease Repairs & Maintenance Supplies Telephone Travel Training Postage Insurance Transcripts (SHR) Automation Support Banking Fees Misc., Including Moving Exper Internet App. Maint. & Develop Internet Payment Charges Unemployment Insurance	\$2,375.00 \$8,126.00 \$1,500.00 \$200.00 \$1,200.00 \$1,440.00 \$4,000.00 \$0.00 \$650.00 \$18,000.00 \$600.00 \$700.00 \$1,000.00 \$5,250.00 \$34,000.00
Payroll Processing	\$350.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$245,005.35
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$500.00
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	<u>\$245,505.35</u>

UPL COMMISSION

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENSES

Salary and Salary Expenses	
Assistant Director	\$20,708.19
Clerical Salary	\$9,599.64
Investigator	\$1,000.00
FICA	\$2,318.55
IPERS	\$2,706.49
Employee Insurance	\$6,217.31
Deferred Compensation	\$360.00
Rent	\$2,390.00
Auditing	\$900.00
Copier Lease	\$300.00
Repairs & Maintenance	\$100.00
Supplies	\$320.00
Telephone	\$360.00
Travel	\$2,000.00
Training	\$0.00
Postage	\$100.00
Insurance	\$100.00
Investigation Expense	\$300.00
Commission Meeting Exp	\$400.00
Automation Support	\$250.00
Misc., Including Moving Exper	\$250.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$14.00
Payroll Processing	\$125.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$50,819.18
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$150.00
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	<u>\$50,969.18</u>



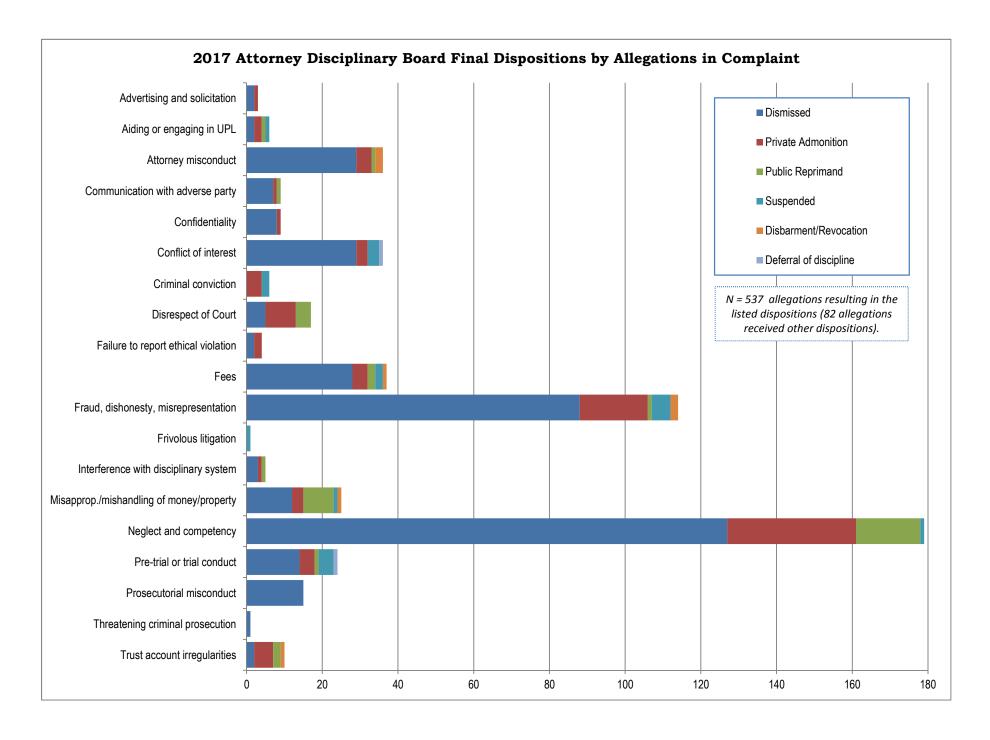


TABLE C GRIEVANCE COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVING DURING 2017

<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>	TERM <u>EXPIRES</u>
Amy Stowe Beattie (until end of final term on June 30, 2017)	6-30-17
Scott Buchanan (effective July 1, 2017)	6-30-18
1A	
Kimberly S. Lange	6-30-17
Cory Thein	6-30-17
James Garrett	6-30-18
Tiffany Kragnes	6-30-18
Jill M. Kistler	6-30-19
Natalia H. Blaskovich	6-30-20
Gary Mick	6-30-20
1B	
Erin Lyons	6-30-17
Mary Schlicher	6-30-17
Shawn Harden	6-30-18
Brian J. Williams	6-30-19
Jennifer Schwickerath	6-30-20
Alice Koempel	6-30-20
Eashaan Vajpeyi	6-30-20

2A

Adam Sauer		6-30-17
Kristen Ollenburg		6-30-18
Greg M. Lievens		6-30-19
Jacqueline Arthur		6-30-20
Philip L. Garland		6-30-20
Mark L. Walk		6-30-20
	2B	
Jim Goodman		6-30-17
Jennifer A. Miller		6-30-17
Bethany J. Currie		6-30-17
Ethan Anderson		6-30-17
Shawn Smith		6-30-18
Mary Howell Sirna		6-30-19
Jessica A. Reynolds		6-30-19
Dennis Parmenter		6-30-20
Laura A. Eilers		6-30-20
	3A	
Abby Walleck		6-30-17
Scott Buchanan (chairperson as of July 1, 2017)		6-30-18
Kristi J. Busse		6-30-19
Micah J. Schreuers		6-30-20

Shawna Nolan Ditsworth		6-30-20
Melanie Summers Bauler		6-30-20
	3B	
Roger Sailer		6-30-17
Darin Raymond		6-30-17
Priscilla Forsyth		6-30-17
Patricia Vogel		6-30-18
Richard H. Moeller		6-30-19
C. Michelle Venable-Ridley		6-30-20
Ian McConeghey		6-30-20
	4	
Amy Zacharias		6-30-17
Jon Heisterkamp		6-30-18
Eric J. Nelson		6-30-19
Deborah Petersen		6-30-20
Jon J. Narmi		6-30-20
Naeda E. Elliott		6-30-20
	5A	
Jeffrey Bump		6-30-18
Thomas P. Murphy		6-30-18
Chad Boehlje		6-30-18
Janet Burkhead		6-30-18

Stacie Codr		6-30-18
Kristina Stanger		6-30-18
Erika Eckley		6-30-19
Beatriz A. Mate-Kodjo		6-30-19
Peter W. Blink		6-30-19
Kara McClure		6-30-20
Craig Shannon		6-30-20
Adam Otto		6-30-20
Mollie Pawlosky		6-30-20
Jennifer Gerrish-Lampe		6-30-20
Katie L. Ranes		6-30-20
	5B	
Tim Kenyon		6-30-17
Clint Spurrier		6-30-17
Jenna Lain		6-30-18
Melissa Larson		6-30-18
Clinton C. Hight		6-30-19
Kristian E. Anderson		6-30-20
Michaelle Murphy Rivera		6-30-20
	5C	
Donna R. Miller		6-30-17
Amy Stowe Beattie		6-30-17
Della Arriaga		6-30-17

Mark Godwin	6-30-17
Stephen Eckley	6-30-17
Kimberly Bartosh	6-30-17
Jerry Foxhoven (resigned in 2017)	6-30-18
Robert Holliday	6-30-18
Elizabeth A. Kellner-Nelson	6-30-18
Joseph Gamble	6-30-18
Carol Moser	6-30-18
Henny Ohr	6-30-18
Felicia Bertin Rocha	6-30-18
Julie Pottorff	6-30-18
Wade Hauser III	6-30-18
Loree Nelson	6-30-18
John Fatino	6-30-18
Thomas H. Walton	6-30-18
Kelley A. Rice	6-30-19
George F. Davison, Jr.	6-30-19
Gregory A. Witke	6-30-19
David M. Erickson	6-30-19
Thomas Duff	6-30-20
Deborah Svec-Carstens	6-30-20
Erin Herbold	6-30-20

Steve Despotovich	6-30-20
Erin E. Schneider	6-30-20
Jonathan E. Kramer	6-30-20
Caroline K. Bettis	6-30-20
Michael A. Carmoney	6-30-20
Brendan E. Greiner	6-30-20
Katie A. Ervin-Carlson	6-30-20
6	
Renee Sneitzer	6-30-17
Kevin Collins	6-30-17
Melody Butz	6-30-18
Mark Fisher	6-30-18
Jennifer Zahradnik	6-30-18
Thomas Hobart	6-30-18
Joseph Schmall	6-30-18
Randall B. Willman	6-30-19
Lisa M. Epp	6-30-19
Cynthia Sueppel	6-30-20
Alex J. Anderson	6-30-20
Elizabeth J. Craig	6-30-20
7	
Kristine Stone (resigned 2017)	6-30-18

Leah Patton		6-30-18
Courtney T. Wilson		6-30-18
Jerry Van Scoy		6-30-19
Mikki Schiltz		6-30-20
Ralph W. Heninger		6-30-20
	8A	
Patrick McAvan		6-30-17
Katherine Lujan		6-30-18
Susan C. Daniels		6-30-18
Allen L. Cook III		6-30-19
Ryan J. Mitchell		6-30-20
Andrew J. Ritland		6-30-20
	8B	
Jennifer Klever-Kirkman		6-30-17
Niko Pothitakis		6-30-17
Sara Lynette Haas		6-30-17
William J. Cahill		6-30-17
Jonathan Stensvaag		6-30-20
Darin R. Stater		6-30-20
Brent R. Ruther		6-30-20
Heidi D. Van Winkle		6-30-20

LAY MEMBERS

<u>1A</u>

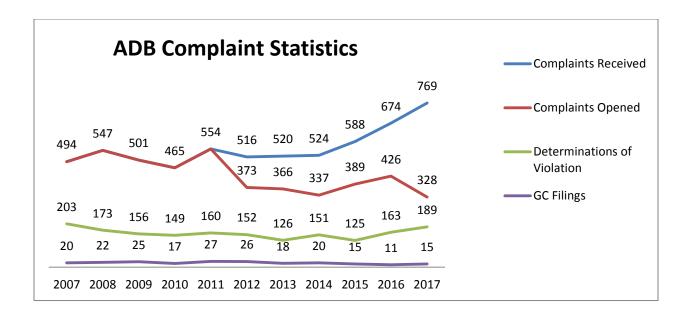
Janet Willenbring	6-30-18
Kelly Francois	6-30-19
<u>1B</u>	
Miriam Brown Tyson	6-30-18
David Buck	6-30-20
<u>2A</u>	
Elizabeth Faber	6-30-20
Scott Flory	6-30-20
<u>2B</u>	
Melissa Nanninga	6-30-17
John Sebastian (resigned in 2017)	6-30-18
Nathan Wilson	6-30-20
Julie Huisman	6-30-20
<u>3A</u>	
E. John Wittneben	6-30-18
Tom Underwood	6-30-20
<u>3B</u>	
Douglas VanDerVoort	6-30-18
Flora M. Lee	6-30-19
<u>4</u>	

Marsha Park	6-30-18
Boyd Littrell	6-30-20
<u>5A</u>	
William C. Snyder	6-30-18
Kathrine A. Brown	6-30-19
Luke Behaunek	6-30-19
<u>5B</u>	
R. Richard Rice	6-30-20
Todd Kale	6-30-20
<u>5C</u>	
Everett Sather	6-30-17
Wanda Noble	6-30-18
Sonia Reyes-Snyder	6-30-18
Joe Henry	6-30-19
André G. Allen	6-30-19
Donna Red Wing	6-30-20
Kendra Erkamaa	6-30-20
<u>6</u>	
Trish Ellison	6-30-18
D. Suzanne Buffalo	6-30-18
Kathy Maxwell	6-30-18
Yolanda Spears	6-30-19
La Shanta Boyce	6-30-20

,	7
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Arnold Shileny	6-30-17
Amy McClure Swearingen	6-30-19
Jim Tiedje	6-30-20
<u>8A</u>	
Tracy Ely (resigned in 2017)	6-30-18
Jerry Droz	6-30-18
Nellie Coltrain	6-30-20
<u>8B</u>	
Jim Ross	6-30-17
Robert Helscher	6-30-18
Jim DenAdel	6-30-20

LE D				
EVANCE CAS	SE STATUS SUM	MARY REPORT 2	2017	
			FINAL	
DOCKET	DENDING	FILED DURING		DENIDING
DOCKET	PENDING		DISPOSITION	PENDING
NUMBER	1/1/2017	2017	DURING 2017	12/31/17
804	X			X
819	X			X
820	X		X	
821	X		X	
823	X		X	
824	X		X	
827	X		X	
828	X		X	
829	X		X	
830	X		X	
831	X		X	
832	X		X	
833	X		X	
834	X		X	
835	X		X	
836		X		X
837		X		X
838		X	X	
839		X	X	
840		X	X	
841		X		X
842		X	X	
843		X		X
844		X		X
845		X		X
846		X		X
847		X		X
848		X		X
849		X		X
850		X		X
ALS	15	15	17	13



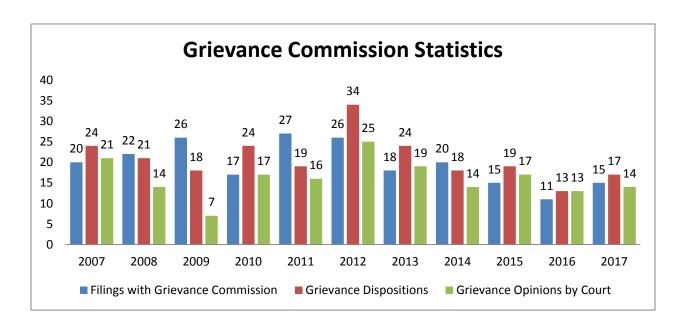


TABLE	F												
GRIEV	ANCE CASE	DISPOSITION S	UMMARY 2	2017									
DOCKET NUMBER	DISMISSAL	ADMONITION UPON CONSENT	PRIVATE ADMONITION	REPRIMAND ON CONSENT	REPRIMAND	SUSPENDED 30 DAYS OR LESS	SUSPENDED 31 TO 60 DAYS	SUSPENDED 61 TO 89 DAYS	SUSPENDED 3 TO 6 MONTHS	SUSPENDED 7 TO 11 MONTHS	SUSPENDED 1 YEAR OR MORE	VOLUNTARILY REVOKED	REVOKED
820					1		Х		1				
821									Х				
823									Х				
824						Х							
827							Х						
828									Х				
829									Х				
830											Х		
831							X						
832											Х		
833					Х								
834													Х
835												X	
838												Х	
839				Х									
Totals	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	4	0	2	2	1

TABLE G
SYNOPSIS AND REPORT REGARDING CASES REACHING FINAL
DISPOSITION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2017

GRIEVANCE	SYNOPSIS OF CHARGES AND REPORT OF DISPOSITION
CASE	
NUMBER	
820	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Bruce A. Willey
	Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1228
	The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with representation of two clients in a business transaction. The commission accepted the stipulation of the parties and found that the attorney's conduct violated rules 32:1.7(a)(2) (concurrent conflict of interest), 32:1.7(b)(4) (informed consent), and 32:1.8(b) (using client information). The commission recommended that the attorney's license be suspended for thirty days. Upon de novo review, the court found that the attorney's conduct violated rules 32:1.7(a)(2) and 32:1.7(b)(4). Because it would not affect the sanction, the court declined to decide whether there had been a violation of rule 32:1.8(b). The court suspended the attorney's license for a period of sixty days.
821	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Theodore Frederick Sporer Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1441 The board alleged that the attorney falsely testified, and made false and frivolous assertions, to a district court judge. After a hearing, the commission found that the attorney violated rules 32:3.1 (frivolous assertion), 32:3.3(a)(1) (false statement of fact to a tribunal), 32:8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud,
	deceit, or misrepresentation), and 32:8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice). The commission recommended a six-month suspension. Upon de novo review, the court affirmed the findings of the commission and most of the

	commission's conclusions. The court suspended the attorney's
	_
	license to practice law for six months.
823	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Tarek A. Khowassah
	Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1266
	The board alleged that the attorney violated the rule of professional conduct pertaining to criminal acts. The
	commission found that the attorney's criminal acts of public
	intoxication and OWI, second offense, violated rule 32:8.4(b). A one-year suspension was recommended. Upon de novo review,
	the court found that the acts committed by the attorney were part of a pattern of criminal conduct, and that this conduct
	reflected adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law. The court suspended the attorney's license to practice law for six
	months. Upon any application for reinstatement, the attorney
	must provide medical documentation from a licensed healthcare professional regarding the maintenance of his sobriety and his
	fitness to practice law.
824	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Paul Kevin Waterman Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1911
	The board alleged that the attorney had an intimate relationship with a client while representing the client in a dissolution
	proceeding. The commission accepted the stipulation of the parties and found that the attorney's conduct violated rule 32:1.18(j) (sexual relations with a client). The commission
	recommended a suspension of forty-five days and also that the attorney be required to attend therapy for at least two years.
	Upon de novo review, the court found that a violation of rule
	32:1.8(j) had occurred and suspended the attorney's license to practice law for thirty days.
827	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Richard Dillon Crotty
	Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1988
	The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with an estate and a workers' compensation
	Tales in connection with an estate and a workers compensation

	case. The commission found the attorney had violated the rules pertaining to probate fees, misrepresentation of material fact, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, communication, withdrawal from misrepresentation, and unauthorized practice of law. A suspension of ninety days was recommended to the court. The commission also recommended the attorney be required to attend eight hours of probate continuing legal education prior to reinstatement. Upon de novo review, the court concluded the attorney's actions concerning his client's forgery did not amount to a disciplinary violation. The court otherwise agreed with the commission as to the ethical violations and imposed a sixty-day suspension.
828	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Pamela Ann Vandel Iowa S. Ct. No. 16-1704
820	The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with representation of a family law client. The commission found that the attorney's conduct violated the rules pertaining to false statements to a tribunal, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, failure to maintain a trust account, dishonesty and misrepresentation. Noting a pattern of general disregard for the ethical rules, particularly with respect to her trust account, the commission recommended a one-year suspension. Upon de novo review, the court found the attorney had violated rules 32:1.4(b), 32:3.3(a)(1), 32:4.1(a), 32:8.4(d), 32:3.4(c), 32:1.5(b), 32:1.15(a), 32:1.15(c), 32:1.15(f), and 32:8.4(c). In light of the multiple violations, the aggravating factors, and the mitigating factors, the court suspended the attorney's license to practice law for six months.
829	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Lawrence L. Lynch Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0193
	The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with a personal loan obtained from certain longtime clients. The commission accepted the stipulation of the parties and found that the attorney's conduct violated rules 32:1.7 (conflict of interest) and 32:1.8 (business transaction

with a client). The commission recommended that the attorney's law license be suspended for nine months. Upon de novo review, the court agreed with the commission that the violations had occurred. The court weighed the aggravating and mitigating circumstances. Noting the uncharacteristic nature of the violations when measured against the attorney's lengthy career, the court imposed a six-month suspension. The court also required that in order to establish eligibility for reinstatement, the attorney would need to show he had repaid the loans, was current on agreed-upon repayment plans to the clients, or had filed bankruptcy in order to discharge or restructure the loans.

830

Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Rodney Howard Powell Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0254

The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with a personal loan obtained from the administrator of an estate for which he was the designated attorney. The commission found that the attorney violated the rules of professional conduct pertaining to conflicts of interest with current clients, using information obtained in the course of representation against current clients, and using information obtained in the course of representation against former clients. The commission recommended a six-month suspension. Upon de novo review, the court found the attorney violated rule 32:1.8(a) in that the terms of the loan were not fair or fully disclosed and the critical requirements to enter into the transaction were ignored. In addition to client harm, the court noted that the attorney's pattern of unethical conduct over the last decade was a significant aggravating factor. The court suspended the attorney's license to practice law for two years. The court also required that upon any application for reinstatement, the attorney must establish that he satisfied or discharged the settlement of the lawsuit brought by the administrator of the estate.

Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Kim Marlow West Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0420

The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules in connection with the probate and closing of an estate. The commission accepted the stipulation of the parties and found that the attorney's conduct violated rules 32:1.1 (competence), 32:1.3 (diligence), 32:8.1(b) (responding to the Board), 32:8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), 32:1.5(a) (probate fees), and 32:1.4(a)(3) (communication). The commission recommended a six-month suspension. Additionally, the commission recommended the attorney be ordered to 1) hire a probate attorney to finish and close the estate, 2) pay the associated attorney fees and court costs, and 3) refund one half of the attorney fee he had previously received. Upon de novo review, the court agreed with the commission's finding as to rule violations. Taking into consideration the violations, the mitigating factors, and the aggravating factors, the court imposed a sixty-day suspension. Additionally, the court ordered that the attorney refund the fee that he had accepted for the probate of the estate.

Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Jason A. Springer Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-1338

The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules by preparing fraudulent documents in real estate transactions. The commission found that the attorney's conduct violated rules 32:1.2(d) (assisting a client in criminal or fraudulent conduct), 32:1.16(a)(1) (failure to withdraw from representation), 32:4.1(a) (knowingly making a false statement of material fact to a third party), 32:4.1(b) (knowingly failing to disclose a material fact), and 32:8.4(b) (conduct that reflects adversely on a lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness to practice law). The commission recommended revocation of the attorney's license to practice law. Upon de novo review, the court agreed with the commission's finding as to rule violations. Finding that the attorney lacked the specific intent to convert funds, the court suspended the attorney's license for two years

	from the date on which he was suspended in a separate action
	based on the conduct giving rise to this commission proceeding.
833	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Kenneth J. Smith Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-1110 The board alleged that the attorney violated rule 45.2(3) (trust account procedures) and rule 32:8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation). The commission found that rule 45.2(3) had been violated and recommended a public reprimand. Upon de novo review, the court agreed with the commission's finding that only rule 45.2(3) had been violated, as well as with the recommended sanction. The court imposed a public reprimand upon the attorney.
834	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. Luke D. Guthrie Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0879 The board alleged that the attorney violated multiple ethical rules, including the misappropriation of funds, in his representation of three clients. The board also alleged that the attorney violated ethical rules arising from his conviction for domestic abuse assault. The commission found eight violations of the ethical rules, including misappropriation of funds, and recommended a three-month suspension. Upon de novo review, the court found knowing misappropriation and conversion of client funds. Declining to address the other rule violations, or mitigating and aggravating factors, the court revoked the attorney's license to practice law. The court noted that the conversion occurred over a period of approximately a month during a time when the attorney's substance abuse reached its peak. Also, that the attorney took immediate steps to address his substance abuse issues after the violations. Lastly, the court noted that there had been no further violations of the ethics rules since that time. The court ordered that the attorney may apply for reinstatement after a period of at least five years, and specified additional requirements to be met by the attorney in the event of application for reinstatement.

835	In the Matter of Richard Jay Buffington
	Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0168
	The attorney submitted false billing statements to the State Public Defender's office in connection with the provision of legal services to indigent Iowans. The court accepted the attorney's consent to disbarment, and revoked the attorney's license to practice law.
838	In the Matter of Edward Forrest Crowell
	Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-0504
	The attorney was criminally convicted of possession of child pornography. The court accepted the attorney's consent to disbarment, and revoked the attorney's license to practice law.
839	Iowa Supreme Court Atty Disc. Bd. v. T. J. Hier Iowa S. Ct. No. 17-1762
	After the complaint was filed with the commission, the attorney agreed to accept a public reprimand under the provisions of Iowa Court Rule 35.12. The complaint before the commission was dismissed.